

Don't Call Me Daddy.

TOKYOPOP®

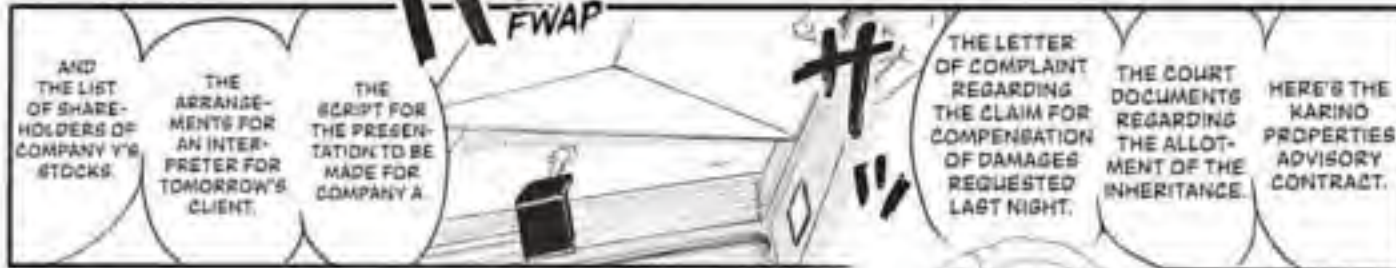


GOROU KANBE



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I'M LEAVING NOW.

PATHETIC!

EVEN THOUGH I'M THE ONE WHO OFFERED.

I THINK IT'S BOTH.

IT'S MY (PRESUMED) SON WHO'S SOUNDING PITIFUL...

I SAID THAT KNOWING...

WAAAAH!

HE'S YOUR...



I'LL SHARE THE BURDEN WITH YOU.

IF IT'S TOO MUCH FOR YOU BY YOURSELF...



HANAO.

I'D REGRET HOW BUSY I WOULD BECOME.



SO DON'T SOUND SO PITIFUL.



WAAAAH!



CAREFUL.

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, HANAO.

RYUUJI MITA
(LIQUOR STORE OWNER)
(CHILDHOOD FRIEND)
(SHOUJI'S FATHER)



YOU COULD WAIT UNTIL YOU'VE CONFIRMED IT WITH THE AUTHORITIES BEFORE TAKING HIM IN.

YOU DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT HE'S YOUR KID.

MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND WAS AT HIS WIFE'S END.

WAAAAAAH!

AND I DECIDED TO HELP HIM OUT.



RIGHT. SORRY.

DADDY!!



DON'T SQUAT DOWN AT THE STORE ENTRANCE.

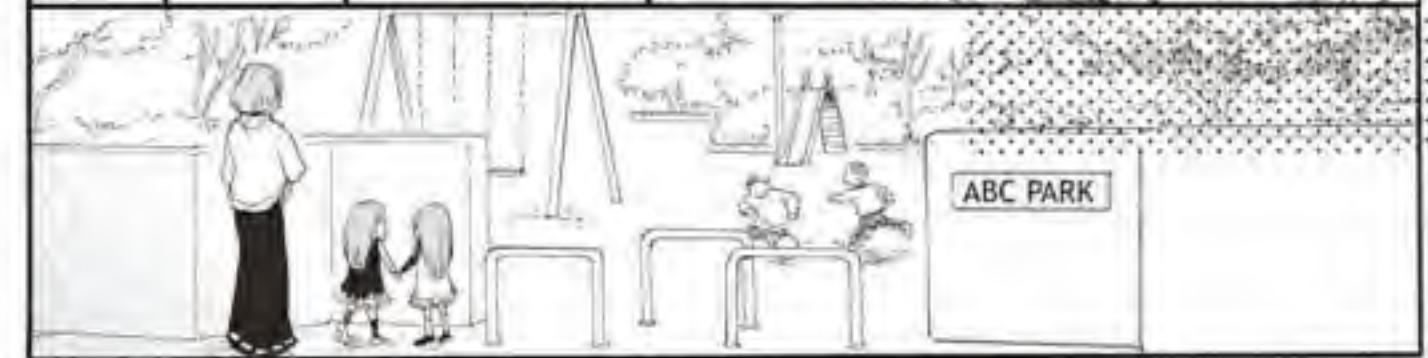
HEY.

OR ELSE HANAO'LL GET MAD AT YOU!

DADDY, YOU'RE S'POSED TO SAY "I'M HOME" WHEN YOU GET BACK!

YEAH, YEAH. I'M HOME.

THAT DAY...





HELLO THERE.

I SEE. YOU HAD ME GOING FOR A SEC!

OOH.

HE'S MY FRIEND'S SON.

HELLO...



DON'T TELL ME... THAT'S...

IS THAT... WHAT I THINK IT IS?

DIRECTOR.

WHAT A SURPRISE.



I TRY NOT TO LET IT INTERFERE WITH MY WORK.

WELL, YES ACTUALLY...

IS HE THE REASON WHY YOU GO HOME EARLY?

I SEE! THAT'S GREAT!

?



YOU EVER THINK ABOUT HAVING YOUR OWN FIRM?

KAJI, LISTEN.



HM? IS HE SHY?

I'M SORRY.

FOR SOME REASON, HE'S NOT COMFORTABLE AROUND MEN.

HUH.

YOU SURE KNOW THE KID WELL.



AND HE'S LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO TAKE OVER HIS BUSINESS, THE OFFICE SPACE INCLUDED.

YOU'RE BLUNT, BUT YOUR WORK IS TRUE. I'D FEEL COMFORTABLE RECOMMENDING YOU FOR THE POSITION.

HUH?

AN OLDER LAWYER GENTLEMAN I KNOW IS THINKING OF RETIRING.



YOU...

COWARD!

WHY AM I A COWARD?!

SINCE WAY BACK WHEN...



WHY-?



MOOSH

OW!

WHAT THE HECK, HANAO?

SHUT UP! DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.



I'VE GOT A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING.

I'LL CATCH YOU LATER!

MY, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MUD DUMPLING!

I FEEL LIKE HE'S DUMPING A LOT ON ME.



KAJI?

WHENEVER YOU TALKED THAT WAY TO ME...

YOU'D CONVINCE ME THAT WAS THE RIGHT PATH TO TAKE.



A MAN'S
FEELINGS...

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
HE THINKS
OF HIM...

WILL
NEVER GET
THROUGH
TO ANOTHER
MAN.



IS IN LOVE
WITH A BOY.

THIS ISN'T
SOME CHILDISH
JOKE.

THIS KID...

I'M
WRONG.
THIS KID IS
PROBABLY
JUST...

NO!

WHY...

IS MITA
COMING
TO MIND?

I'M
BACK!

IT'LL
NEVER BE
REQUIRED.

I'M SURE...





ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?

YES.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?



NO... I WON'T CALL THIS LOVE.

THE CAUSE

I DON'T WANT TO WATCH A SCENE OF SELF-HARM.



LOVE YOU GUYS.

THANK YOU.

I...



I'LL KNOCK HIM INTO NEXT WEEK!

WHO CAUSED THIS?!



PFFT!

THE CAUSE

IT WON'T BECOME LOVE.

AND I DON'T CALL IT THAT...

AS LONG AS NOBODY KNOWS...



I WON'T CRY.

I PROMISE...



IT'S NOTHING.

WHO MADE YOU CRY?!

HECK YEAH! YOU BET I DO!

YOU MEAN IT, MITA?

HA HA HA!!

I'M FINE.

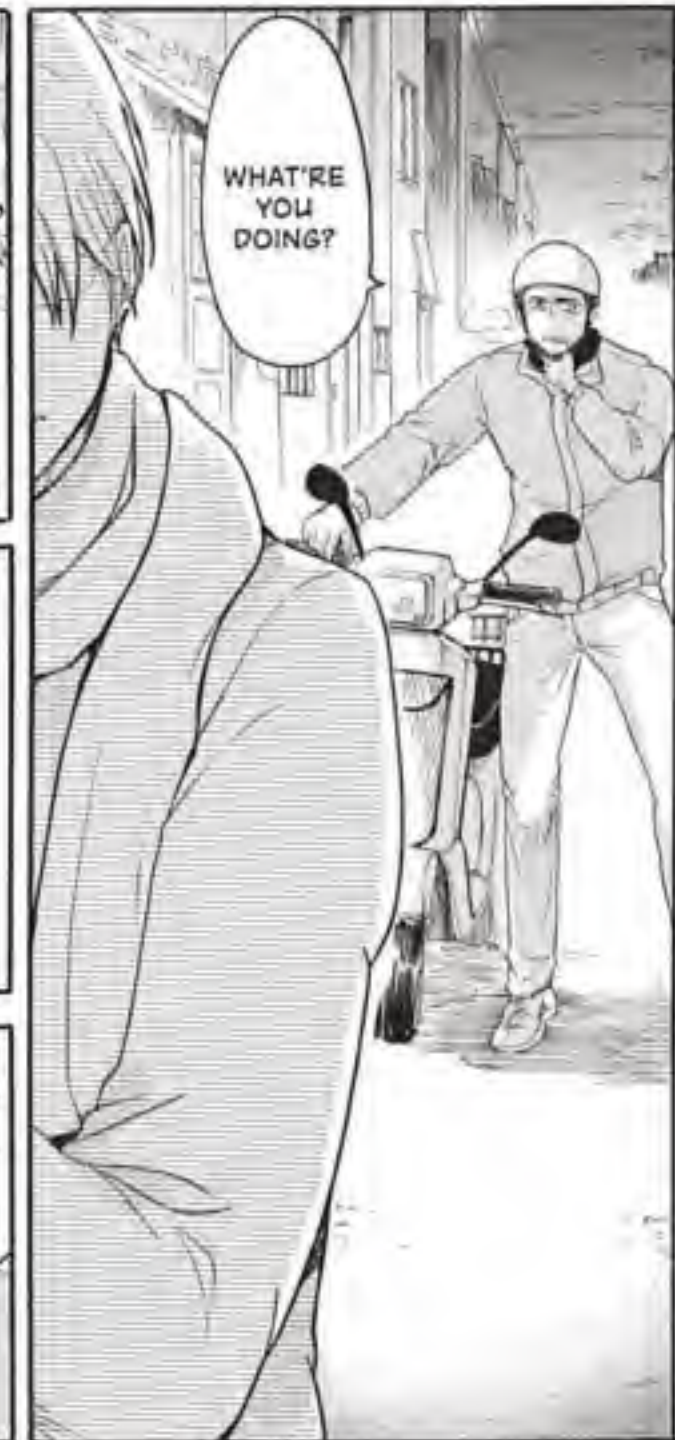
PFFT!





















Chapter 2





ONCE I'D
SETTLED THE
BUSINESS...



IT BECAME
MY NEW
HOME.



IT'S BEEN 20
YEARS SINCE I
LEFT HOME...

WHICH WAS
PLENTY OF TIME
TO GET MY CAREER
ON TRACK.



HONESTLY,
IF THEY HAVE
TIME TO BE
DISPUTING
THIS, I WISH
THEY'D COME
AND VISIT HER
MORE OFTEN.

EVEN IF
SHE HAS
DEMENTIA,
IT'S NOT LIKE
IT'S GOING TO
PROGRESS
RAPIDLY.

I
AGREE.



OH.

THAT OLD
LADY WAS
DOING
PRETTY
WELL. ALL
THINGS
CONSIDERED.



HA
HA.
OH,
NO.

I WOULDN'T
GET TO TALK
TO YOU
ANYMORE,
KAJI!

"BUT HE'D
BE PERFECT
IF HE JUST
SHUT HIS
MOUTH."

THEY SAY
"DR. HABA'S
GOOD."



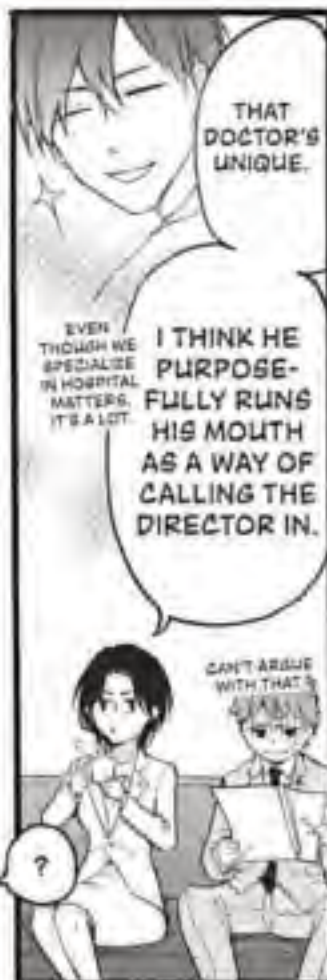
PERHAPS.



DON'T YOU
FIND THAT
RIDICULOUS?

FAMILY
MEMBERS
THAT NEVER
GET INVOLVED
FOR YEARS...

AND THEN
SUDDENLY
START ACTING
LIKE THEY
CARE THIS
LATE IN THE
GAME ARE
ALWAYS
LIKE THIS.



THAT
DOCTOR'S
UNIQUE.

I THINK HE
PURPOSE-
FULLY RUNS
HIS MOUTH
AS A WAY OF
CALLING THE
DIRECTOR IN.

CAN'T ARGUE
WITH THAT.



ARE
CASES
LIKE THIS
COMMON?

I'M
SURE
DR. HABA'S
POOR
BEDSIDE
MANNER
DIDN'T
HELP.

IT'S A
DELICATE
ENOUGH
TOPIC AS
IT IS.

AAW, SO
THEY ENDED
UP BLOWING
UP AT YOU?

MANY
FAMILIES ARE
UNWILLING TO
BELIEVE IT AND
ARGUE WITH
THE DOCTORS.
BUT I SUPPOSE
CASES WHERE
LAWYERS GET
INVOLVED AREN'T
COMPLETELY
UNHEARD OF.

THEY SAY
THAT OVER
40% OF
SENIOR
CITIZENS
BROUGHT
TO THE
EMERGENCY
UNIT HAVE
DEMENTIA.



I HAVE
SOME WORK
I WANT YOU
TO SEE
TONIGHT!

DIRECTOR!

HE'LL
HIT ON
JUST
ABOUT
ANYONE.

NOTHING...

BY THE
WAY, MR.
KAJI.

WHAT
ARE YOUR
PLANS
TONIGHT?

DR.
HABA...



THAT'S
PRECISELY
WHY IT'S
SO HARD
TO TELL.

BUT
SHE'S GOT
CONTROL
OF ALL HER
FACULTIES,
SO...



WHAT
MATTERS
ISN'T
HIDING HER
SYMPTOMS.

IF WE
VISIT THE
CLASSROOM
AND STORES
SHE GOES
TO, WE
MIGHT FIND
SOMETHING.



IT'S IN
HER BEST
INTEREST
THAT
WE FACE THIS
HEAD-ON AND
UNDERSTAND
IT.



THAT
HABA'S
DIAGNOSIS
IS RIGHT.

THIS
MIGHT
SERVE AS
BACKUP TO
CONVINCE
THEM...

WHA...



AFTER GETTING
THE PATIENT
AND FAMILY
TO REACH AN
UNDERSTANDING,
I WANT THEM TO
BE LEFT WITH
THE IMPRESSION
THAT IT'S A GOOD
HOSPITAL.

BUT
AS THE
ATTORNEY
ON THE
HOSPITAL'S
SIDE...

THE
PATIENT'S
FAMILY'S JUST
UPSET. WHEN
THIS THING
GETS BIGGER,
I'M SURE
THEY'LL DROP
THE CASE.



AFTER
ALL,
THAT
OLD
LADY...

I JUST
WONDER IF
IT REALLY IS
DEMENTIA.

WELL...

WHAT?

BUT DO
YOU THINK
DR. HABA'S
DIAGNOSIS IS
ACCURATE?



IS ON
PINSTA.



IT WAS A
MAN WHO
CALLED
HIMSELF
"MITA."



BY
THE WAY,
A PHONE
CALL CAME
IN FOR YOU,
DIRECTOR.

YEAH?

I SAID I'D
HAVE YOU
CALL HIM
BACK, BUT
HE JUST
HUNG UP.

AH...

I'LL
GO!
I'LL
FIGURE
OUT WHAT
THOSE
SHOPS
ARE RIGHT
AWAY!

YOU CAN
COUNT
ON ME!



THAT'S
LOVELY
PATCH-
WORK.

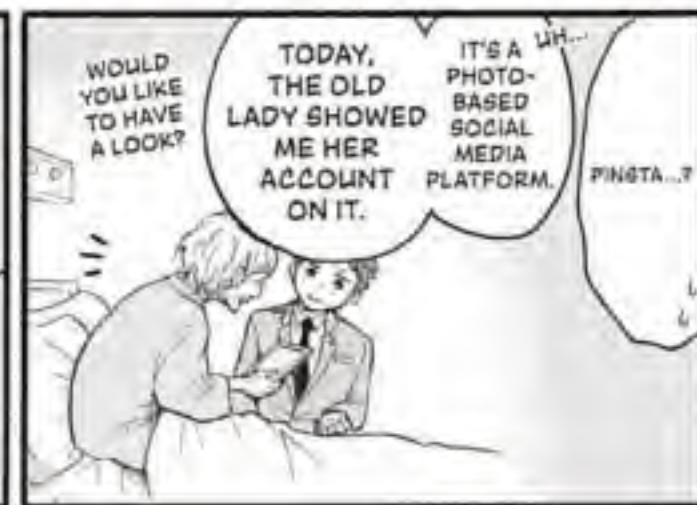
SHE EVEN
ATTENDS
A CLASS...
HARD TO
LABEL
THIS AS
DEMENTIA.
IT'S TRUE.

WAIT.

DON'T
USE THAT
WORD
"DAFFY."

THAT
DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE
DAFFINESS
TO YOU,
DOES IT?

THIS
IS IT
HERE.



WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO HAVE
A LOOK?

TODAY,
THE OLD
LADY SHOWED
ME HER
ACCOUNT
ON IT.

IT'S A
PHOTO-
BASED
SOCIAL
MEDIA
PLATFORM.

UH...
PINSTA...?



TO HAVE ANY
BUSINESS
WITH ME NOW.

THAT'S NOT
ENOUGH OF
A REASON...

FOR
HIM...



YOU'RE
STILL ON
YOUR
COMPUTER?

MM-
HM.

I JUST
CLOSED OLD
MAN KAJI'S
SHOP FOR
THE DAY.

HEY,
SHOWJI.



DAD,
I CLOSED
UP OLD
MAN
KAJI'S...

WHOAI



IT MUST
BE A NEW
CLIENT
WHO JUST
HAPPENS
TO HAVE
THE SAME
LAST NAME.



WE'VE
NEVER
ONCE
SEEN
EACH
OTHER.

IN ALL
THE 20
YEARS
SINCE
THEN...



WHEN
WAS THE
LAST TIME I
WENT BACK
HOME...?

AND EVEN
THAT WAS
YEARS AGO
NOW.

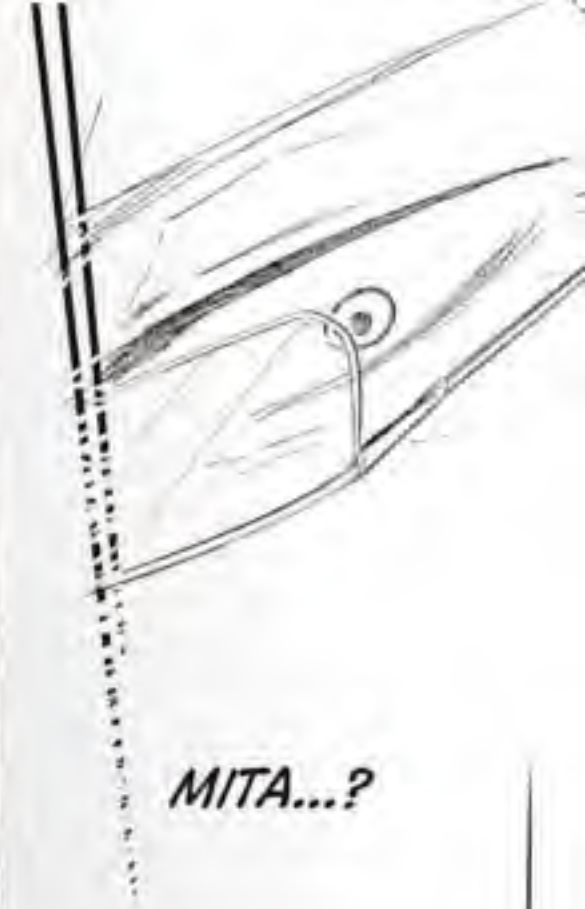
AND I'D
ALWAYS
PLANNED MY
NEW YEAR
VISITS HOME
FOR WHEN
HE WASN'T
AROUND.

MITA'S FAMILY
ALWAYS OPENED
A BOOTH AT
THE NEW YEAR
CELEBRATION,
SO HE'S NOT
THERE.



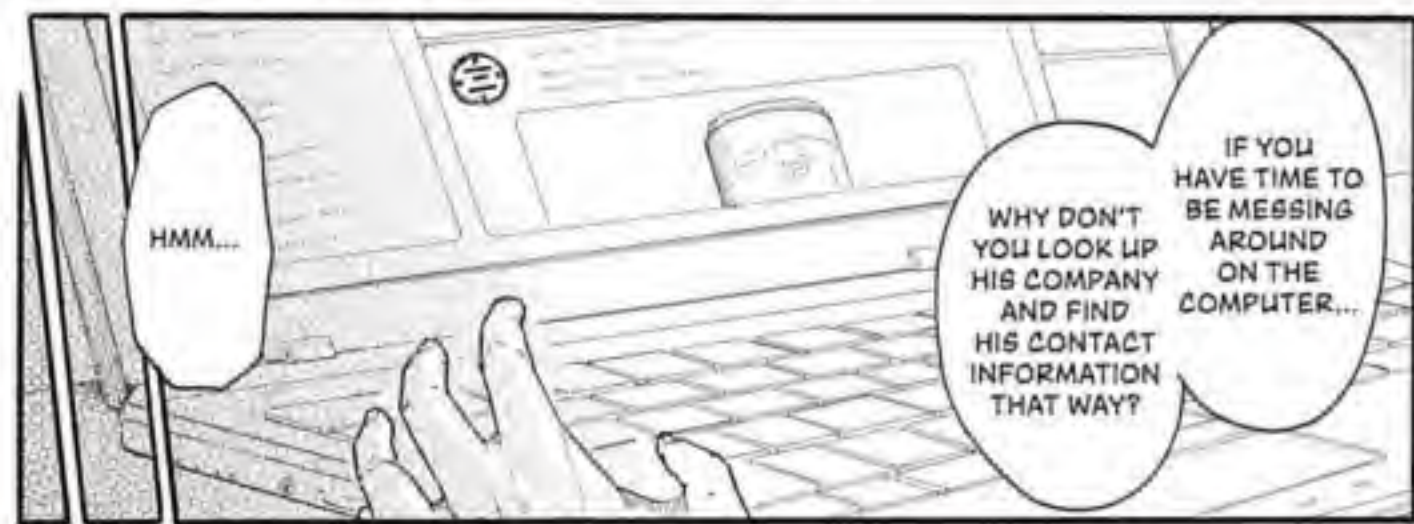
HIS KID
WOULD
BE 26 BY
NOW.

WELL
PAST THE
AGE OF BEING
INFLUENCED
BY ONE'S
PARENT, BUT
STILL...



MITA...?





DON'T
YOU THINK IT'S
BETTER LATE
THAN NEVER?



NO MATTER
WHAT PEOPLE
SAY...



THAT'S
WHAT YOU
SHOULD BE
PUTTING YOUR
FOCUS ON.

FOR
HER
SAKE.

AT LEAST
YOU DIDN'T
SQUANDER THE
OPPORTUNITY TO
FACE IT BEFORE
IT'S "TOO LATE."



THAT
SHE
WAS ON
SOCIAL
MEDIA.

WE
HAD NO
IDEA...

OR
THAT
SHE
WAS
LEARN-
ING
PATCH-
WORK.

OR
THAT...



THAT'S
ENOUGH.

IT'S CLEAR
SHE WAS AWARE
OF HER OWN
CONDITION AND
THAT THOSE
AROUND HER
NOTICED IT
TOO. THIS
INCLUDES...

WE
GATHERED
TESTIMONY
FROM THE
SHOPS SHE
FREQUENTS
AND A CLASS
SHE ATTENDS.

BASED
ON HER
PINSTAGRAM
ACCOUNT...



DR. HABA
WAS
RIGHT.

WE
DIDN'T
SEE
THINGS
FOR WHAT
THEY WERE.



UNTIL
NOW...

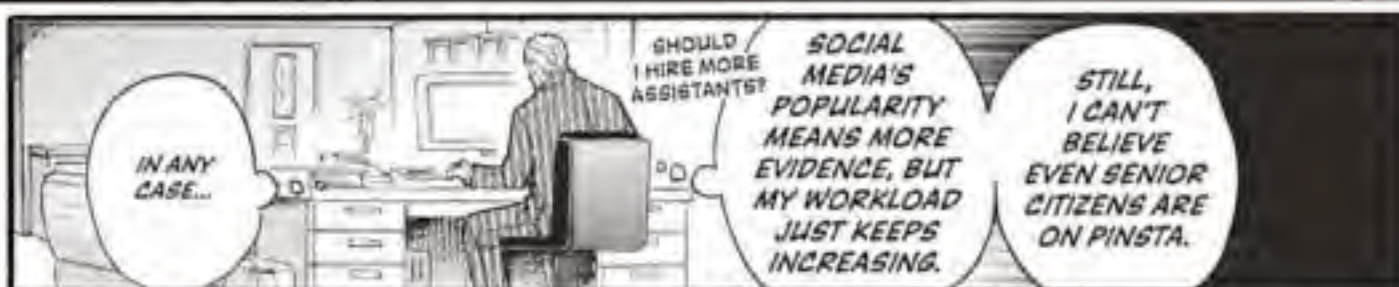
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT TOOK
US...

WE
LEFT MY
MOTHER
ALONE
ALL THIS
TIME...

WE LET
OURSELVES BE
LULLED INTO
COMPLACENCY
BY THINGS WE
HADN'T EVEN
NOTICED.



SHE WAS
GOING
THROUGH
EACH DAY
WITH SO
MUCH
ANXIETY.





...IT'S TOO LATE.



WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR.

MAYBE THAT'S...

THAT'S RIGHT.



THEN DON'T BE A WUSS ABOUT THIS.

SMACK!!

チン!!



BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

IT'S TIME I TOLD MYSELF...



THEN AGAIN, IT'S BEEN 20 YEARS, SO I GUESS HE COULD'VE LEARNED IT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE CAN USE A COMPUTER.

WAIT, IT'S MOSTLY UPDATES ON HIS DAD.

SHOW...?

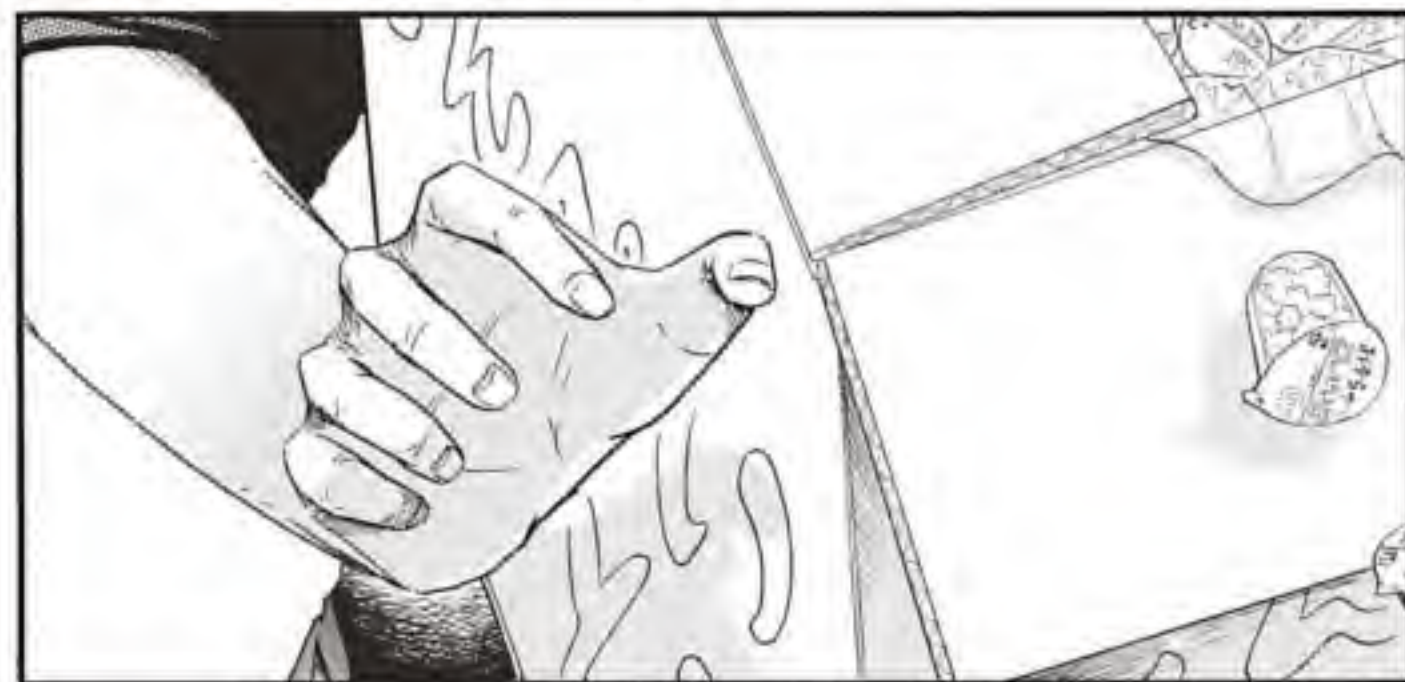


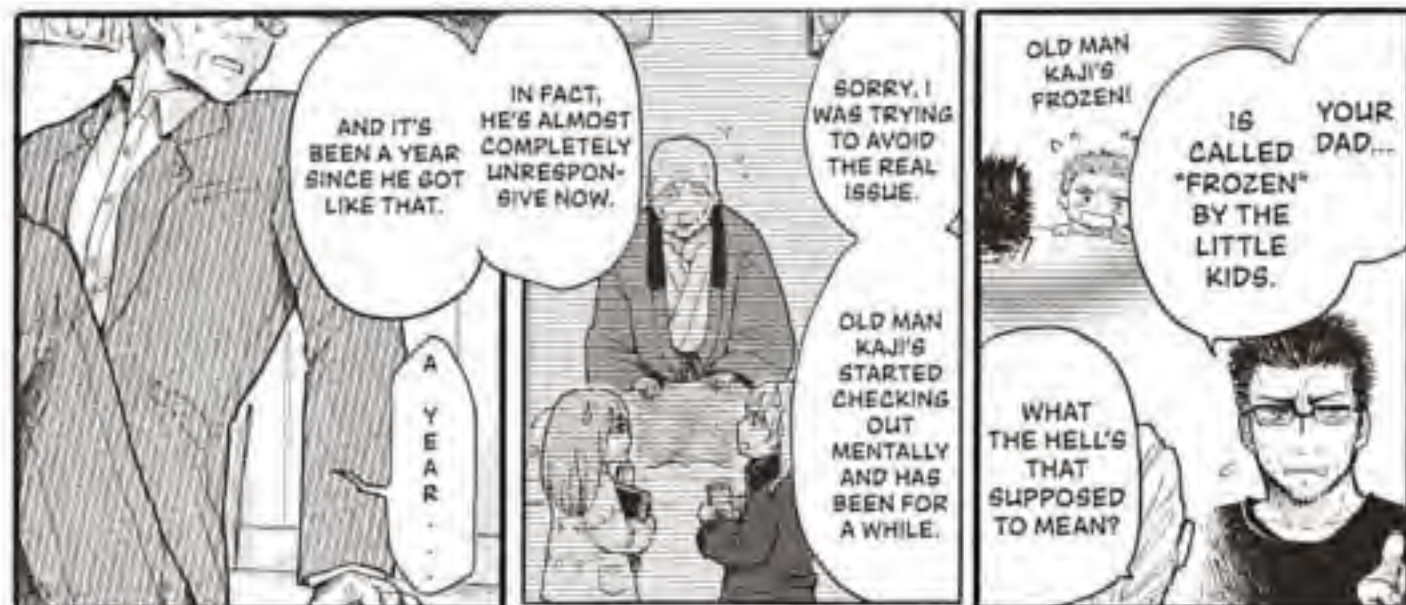
IT'S JUST HIS EVERYDAY EXPERIENCES.

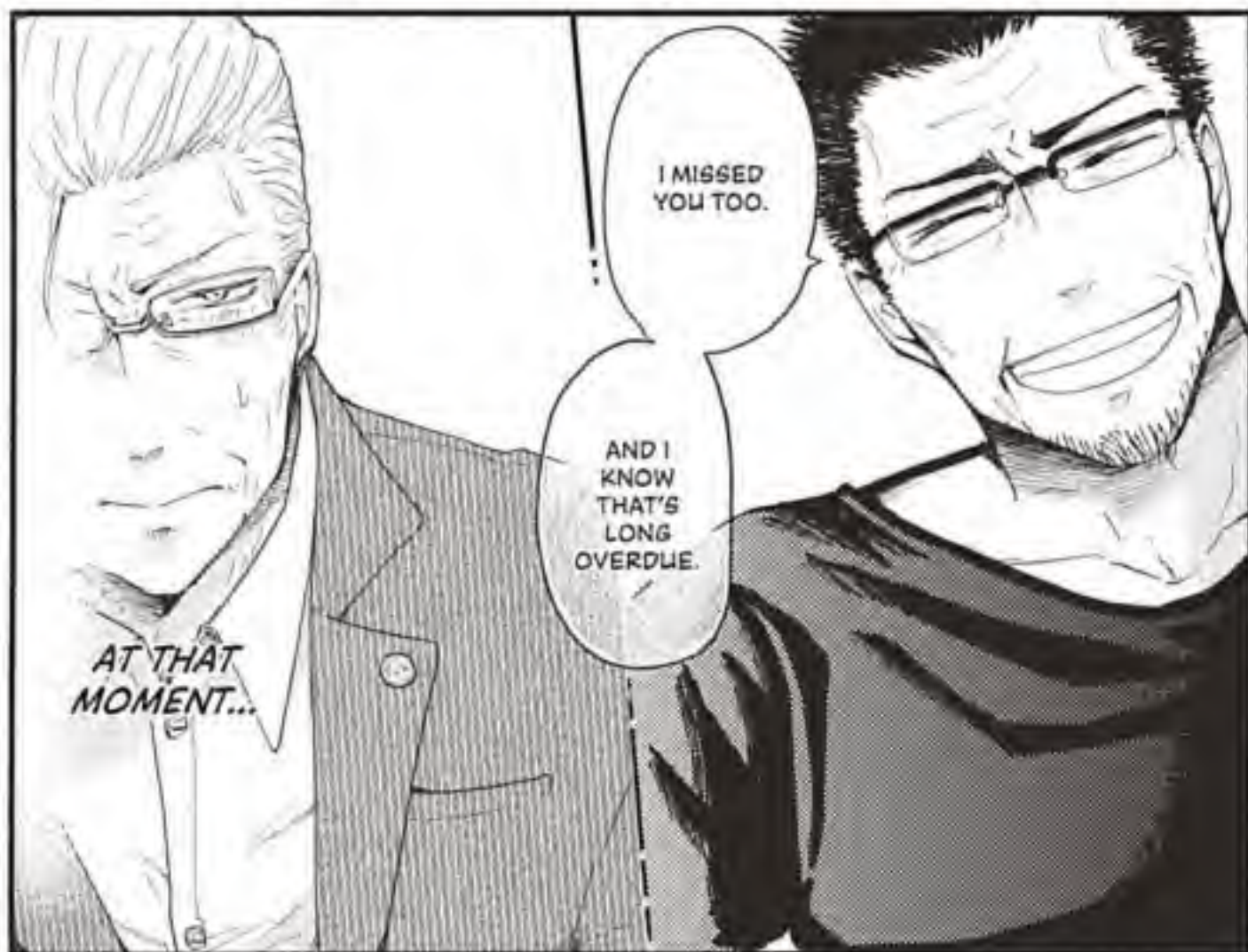
ADVERTISE YOURSELF ONCE IN A WHILE, JEEZ.

HEH.









Chapter 3



"Don't Call Me Daddy" is a spin-off
of my previous work "Don't Call Me Dirty."

Chapters two and three of Daddy run right alongside the
timeline in my previous work Dirty, so it might be fun for
you to compare between the two...

Of course, you can also read
just Daddy on its own without
any problem! It's okay!



Special thanks: Mitsuru Yumeki-chan and Tsukinori-chan who helped me

My editor, designer, and everyone in the editorial department.

And all of you who read my story, please join me for just a little longer!



SHEESH!
YOU SURE
PERKED
UP THE
MOMENT
YOU GOT
ADMITTED
TO THE
HOSPITAL.

PUT A
CORK IN IT,
GRAMP!

PHEW...

WOW, HE
HASN'T
CHANGED
AT ALL.

IF YOU'VE
GOT TIME
TO TEASE
AN OLD
MAN, THEN
GET SOME
REAL WORK
DONE, YOU
LAZY OAF.

WHAT'RE
ALL OF
YOU DOING
HERE,
LOITERING
AROUND?

ENOUGH
WITH THE
JOKING,
MITA.

I PREFERRED
YOU THE WAY
YOU WERE
BEFORE:
QUIET.



NOW
YOU STOP
IT, DAD!

AND I
MIGHT
JUST GO
DAFFY
AGAI—

LET YOUR
GUARD
DOWN...



AWKWARD.

AWKWARD...



IS MORE
WRINKLED
THAN HOW I
REMEMBER
IT.

EVEN HIS
FINGER
SMOOTHLY
SWIPING
OVER THE
SCREEN...



AND HE'S
OBSESSED
ENOUGH
WITH SOCIAL
MEDIA THAT
YOU COULD
CALL IT AN
ADDICTION.

WHAT?

MITA HAS
CHANGED
IN THE 20
YEARS
SINCE I
LAST SAW
HIM.

HE'S
TAKEN UP
SMOKING
AND WEARS
GLASSES...



AWW...
YOU
CLOSED
MY APP.

HA!
I DIDN'T
SAY YOU
COULD
USE
MINE.
HANDS
OFF!

HEY.



THAT'S
CUZ I'M
SO USED
TO IT.

YOU
SHOULD
TRY IT
TOO,
HANAQ.

TRY
WHAT?

YEAH?

I WAS
JUST
THINKING
HOW
SMOOTHLY
YOU WORK
YOUR
FINGERS.



I KNOW
HE
KNOWS.

EVEN IF
HE WON'T
SHOW IT
ON HIS
FACE.



NO, I
MEAN...
LIKE,
YOU'RE NOT
AWKWARD
OR
ANYTHING.

HUH?
WHAT
ELSE
WOULD
WE DO IF
WE DIDN'T
TALK?

I'M
IMPRESSED
YOU CAN
JUST CHAT
SO CASUALLY
AFTER NOT
SEEING EACH
OTHER IN
20 YEARS.

GUESS
IT'S A TEST
TAKEN TO
YOUR
COMMUNIC-
ATION
SO THEY
SAY.





WHAT
KIND OF DEEP
CONVERSATION
ARE YOU TWO
GETTING INTO?

PAT
ほ。す。

WAH!



I'M SURE
YOU'VE
GOT A
VALUED
CLIENT
TO MEET
SOON.

WELL, I'LL
GO BRING
THE CAR
AROUND,
HANAQ.

IF YOU'LL
BE STAYING
LONG TO
CHAT, YOU
MIGHT WANT
TO LET
THEM—

MITA.



ANYWAY,
DON'T YOU
HAVE A DATE
TO GET TO?
SCRAM.

SHUT
UP. I ONLY
OVERHEARD
A LITTLE.

DID YOU DAD!
HEAR
ALL
THAT?



YOU'RE
THE ONE
READING
INTO
IT TOO
MUCH.

WAH!
A PARENT
SHOULDN'T
MAKE DIRTY
COMMENTS
LIKE THAT.

BE SURE
TO WASH
YOURSELF
FIRST.

...IS
ACTUALLY
WHAT IT
IS, YES.



YEAH,
WELL...

I'M SUR-
PRISED.

YOU
NEVER
ONCE MEN-
TIONED...



YOU
FOUND HIS
MOTHER?

...YEAH.



AH!
BUT YOU
KNOW.

LISTEN
TO THIS.



DID I
SERIOUSLY
BELIEVE
THAT?

BUT TWO
MARRIED
MEN?!

WOW, I
WAS SO
DUMB!

HE
DOESN'T
REMEM-
BER.

AS I
THOUGHT



IN TRUTH...

THAT
WASN'T THE
ONLY THING.

OF
COURSE.

THOUGH
I DON'T
HAVE
TO SAY
THAT.

THEN CAN
I RELY ON
YOU MORE
OFTENT

FOR REAL?



MY MOM
CAME BACK
HOME.

IT WAS
AFTER
YOU LEFT,
HANAQ.

THAT'S WHY
YOU NEVER
HEARD
ABOUT IT.



















AND TO HER, SHOWJI...

COULDN'T MEAN AS MUCH AS A CHILD USUALLY DOES TO A MOTHER.

CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE WAS BORN UNDER, IT'S BASICALLY MY FAULT.



THERE WAS JUST NOTHING HOLDING US TOGETHER BEYOND THE KID.

NOTHING HAPPENED.

WAS A POINT OF CONTENTION BETWEEN BOTH OF US, DEEP DOWN.

I THINK EVERYTHING WE'D DONE UP TO THEN...



BUT...

OUR MARRIED LIFE DIDN'T LAST EVEN A YEAR.

QUICK TO WED. QUICK TO DIVORCE.

NO.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?



COUPLES SPLIT UP ALL THE TIME, SO HE THINKS IT WAS JUST ANOTHER REGULAR DIVORCE.

HE THINKS SOME SORT OF CIRCUMSTANCES MADE HER HAVE TO LEAVE WHEN HE WAS LITTLE.

SHOWJI DOESN'T KNOW THAT HIS MOTHER ABANDONED HIM.



I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU.

BECAUSE DOZENS OF TIMES AFTER THAT...

THE THOUGHT WOULD GO THROUGH MY HEAD...



HA HA. SORRY, SORRY.

I ALMOST LET IT SLIP MYSELF.

YOU SHOULD TELL HIM THE TRUTH ALREADY.



ANYWAY, AFTER YOU LEFT...

CAN YOU POUR ME SOME WATER?

YOU TOOK TOO LONG GETTING TO THE POINT.

SLUMP

SURE.

WAIT, WHAT'S THE MATTER, HANAOT?



WE TALKED ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS.

TURNS OUT SHE WAS JUST AS WORRIED ABOUT HIM.

GOT MARRIED.

AND SHE CAME TO LIVE WITH US.

SO I SEARCHED FOR SHOWJI'S MOM.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

I MEAN, I KNEW I COULDN'T DO IT ON MY OWN.



WE'D BECOME LIKE A NORMAL FAMILY.

ABOUT ONE YEAR AFTER THAT...







YOU WERE TALKING WITH THAT HOSPITAL DOCTOR ON OUR WAY HOME.



AT FIRST, I DIDN'T WANT TO INTERRUPT.

BUT THEN YOU LOOKED SO TROUBLED.



I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT SHOUJI.

SORRY FOR BUTTING INTO YOUR CONVERSATION LIKE THAT.

NO.

WHY...?

...EVER BEEN IN LOVE WITH A MAN?



AND I KNOW WHY...

YOU LEFT US.

ARE YOU HEARING ME?
FROM 20 YEARS AGO.

ARE YOU SEEING ME?



WHAT THE HELL?

DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME.

I KNOW.



WASN'T IN THE WRONG.

YOUR DECISION...



SO SLEEPY...

I FEEL...

THIS HAS BEEN ON MY MIND TODAY, BUT...

HAVE YOU...

RUB

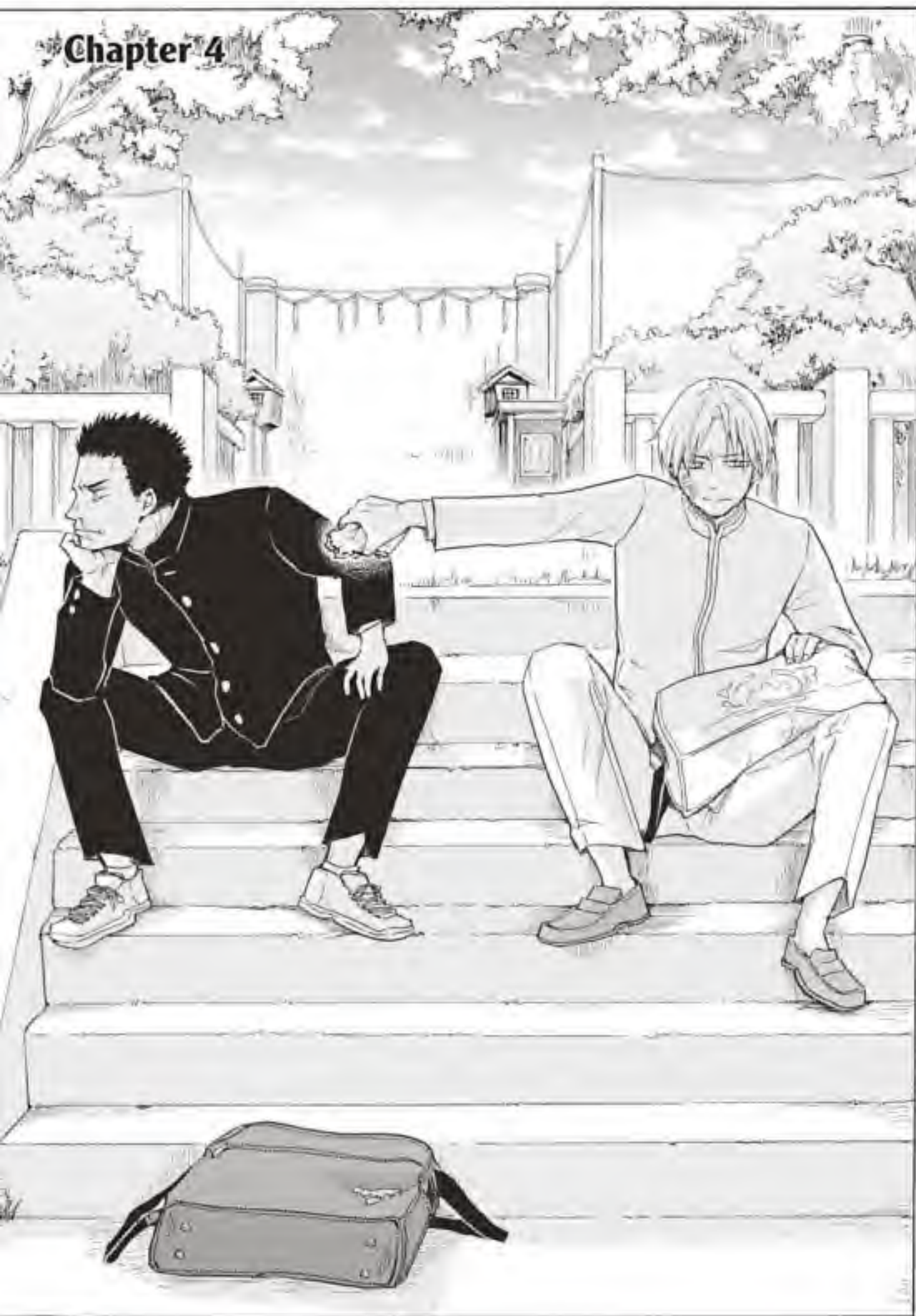
AHH... FOR SOME REASON...

HEY, HANAO.

WANT ANOTHER ONE?



Chapter 4





THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT SINCE WAY BACK WHEN.

MAYBE...







WELL, I GUESS JUST BECAUSE HE'S LOOKING DOESN'T MEAN THERE'S ANYTHING TO IT.

YOU LOOK AT MY DAD A LOT TOO, HANAO.



YOU'RE PROBABLY OVER-THINKING THINGS.

HMMM.

MAYBE.



I THINK THE TRUTH IS...

I'D FORGOTTEN, BUT THEN I REMEMBERED.



THAT THIS BOY WOULD SEE THROUGH ME.

THIS IS WHAT I'D BEEN AFRAID OF ALL THIS TIME.



FIGURE ME OUT.

HANAO, YOU'VE ALWAYS...

LOOKED AT MY FATHER...

AND THAT HE'D...



NOTHING SHOULD BE ANY DIFFERENT FROM HOW IT WAS.

IF I STICK TO FEIGNING IGNORANCE...



SORRY, SHOUJI. FOR MAKING YOU HELP.

HE'S AWFULLY SPRITELY.

I'M SO HAPPY HE WAS ABLE TO BE DISCHARGED EARLY, HANAO.



AH-CHOO!

LIKE PACKING UP HIS HOSPITAL ROOM.

I GET WORRIED WHEN MY DAD HAS TO TAKE CARE OF DETAILS BY HIMSELF.

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE.



COME ON. STOP DRAGGING YOUR FEET!

LET'S GO!



すゝ
SNIFFLE

IT FEELS LIKE...

HE'S LOOKING AT YOU AN AWFUL LOT.

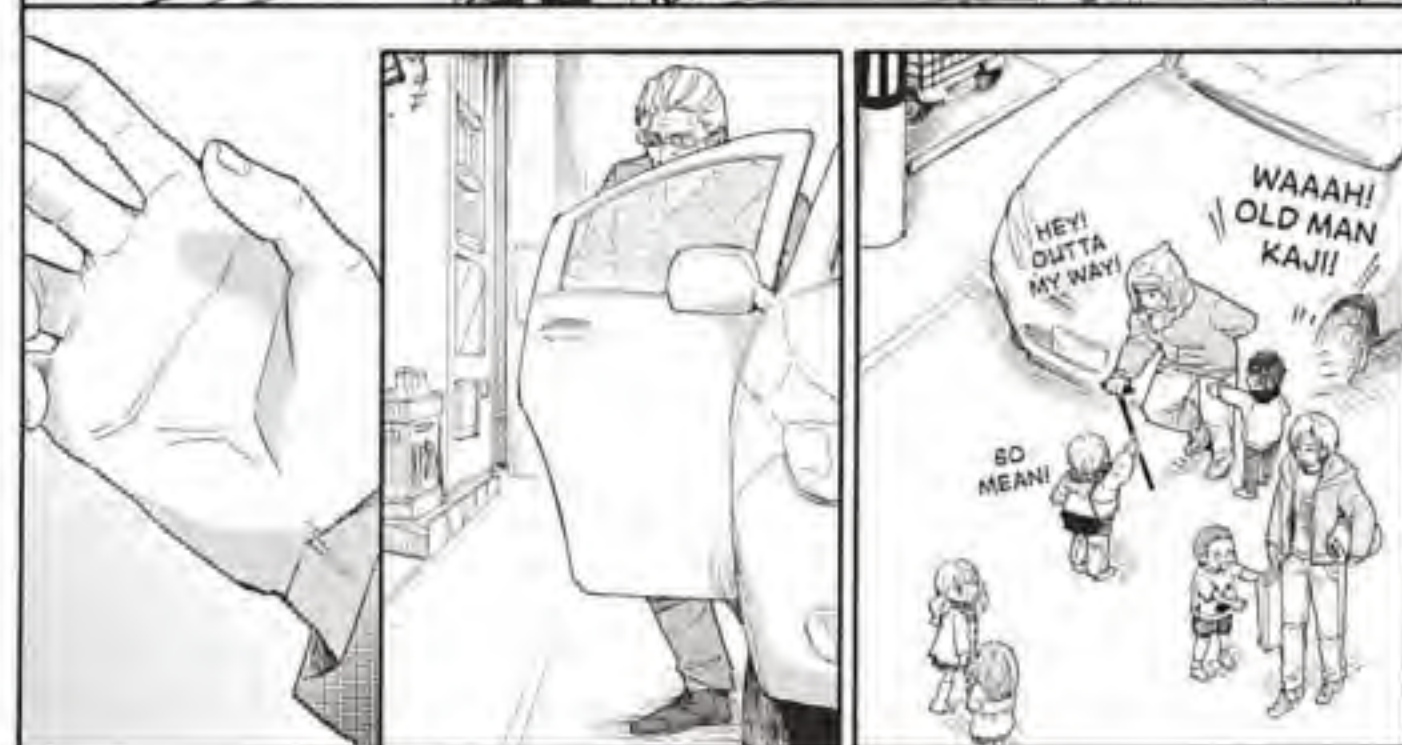


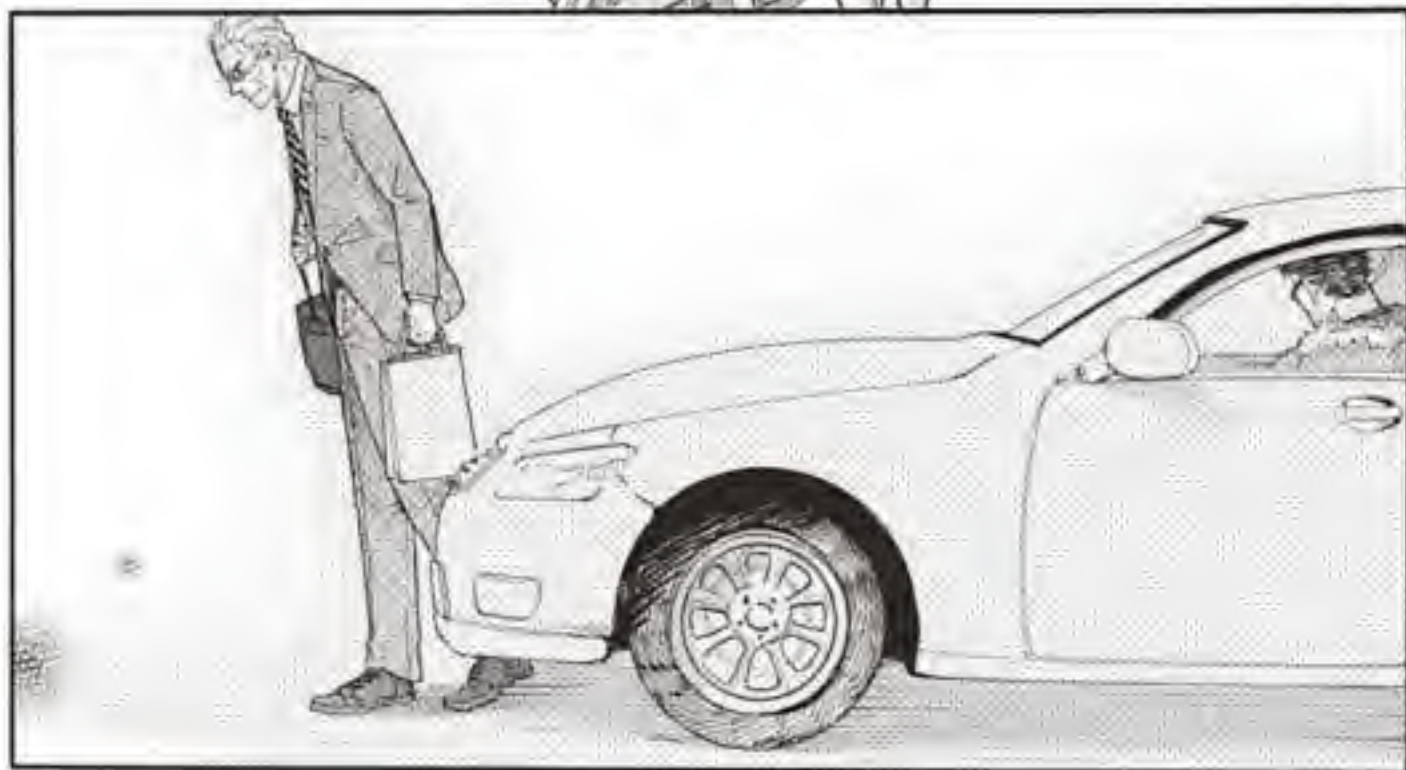
DO YOU KNOW IF SOMETHING HAPPENED, HANAO?

AND MY DAD'S BEEN WEIRD LATELY.











I'M
SURE THAT
SOMEDAY...



THE
TRUTH IS...

I'M
HAPPY
THAT
YOU
WANTED
TO TALK
IT OUT.



I'M
SORRY,
MITA.



THE FACT THAT
YOU CHOSE NOT
TO DESTROY
OUR CURRENT
RELATIONSHIP...

WILL
BECOME
A HAPPY
MEMORY
FOR ME.



IT'S NOT
SOMETHING
YOU CAN
START.

IT'S
SOMETHING
YOU FALL
INTO.



WHAT DO
YOU SAY TO
SEEING OFF
THE LAST DAY
OF THE YEAR
WITH ME?

THAT MEANS
YOU'VE NOTICED
MY ADVANCES!
I'M JUST ONE
STEP AWAY!

IF IT
MEANS
PLANTING
THE SEEDS OF
A LITTLE
LOVE!

I CAN
SNEAK
OUT FOR
A LITTLE.
LOVE!

YOU'VE
GOT WORK,
DON'T YOU?

IN THE
EMERGENCY
UNIT.



THE
"LOVE"
THAT
YOU TALK
ABOUT...

IF IT
MEANS
PLANTING
THE SEEDS
OF LOVE!



THERE
ARE
TIMES
WHEN
THAT'S
TRUE
TOO.

WELL...

BUT...



EVEN
WHEN YOU'VE
ALREADY FALLEN,
NEW LOVE
CAN START.

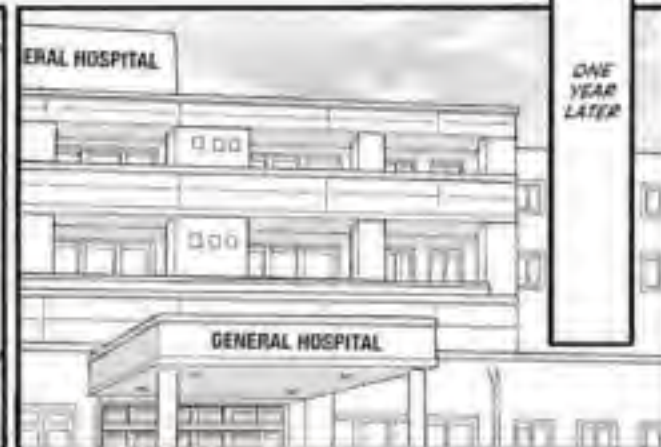


BUT...

IF HE'D BEEN
ADMITTED THE
FIRST TIME,
THEN MAYBE
IT WOULDN'T
HAVE GOTTEN
THIS BAD.

LET ME
ASK YOU
THIS.

I KNOW
HE WAS
REFUSED
ADMISSION,
BUT I WANT
TO KNOW
THE REASON
WHY HE WAS
ACCEPTED
LATER ON.



GENERAL HOSPITAL

GENERAL HOSPITAL

ONE
YEAR
LATER



WHAT
IS YOUR
PROBLEM?!

JUMP



HOW
INHUMANE.

"THE PATIENT
LOOKED ABOUT
TO KEEL OVER, SO
I'M SURE HE HAD
TO BE ADMITTED
AT THAT POINT."

IS THAT
WHAT YOU
WANT ME
TO SAY?



I WOULDN'T
BE ABLE TO
WHISPER
SWEET
NOTHING
S TO YOU
THEN!

STOP
IT.

AND IF
YOU SHUT
YOUR MOUTH,
I WOULDN'T
HAVE TO BE HIT
ON LIKE THIS.

HA
HA.

IF ONLY
HE'D SHUT
THAT MOUTH
OF HIS.



NAH.

IT'S MY
FAULT
FOR NOT
TURNING
DOWN THE
OFFER TO
SIT WITH
DR. HABA.

BUT...

I'M SO
SORRY,
MR.
KAJI...









WHERE
ON
EARTH
ARE WE
GOING?

MITA.



THEY
SHOULD BE
SETTING
UP THE
BOOTH AS
WE SPEAK.

OH?

I ALREADY
TOLD YOU.
TO WHERE
SHOWJI
AND HIS
BOY ARE.

YOU
KNOW,
TODAY...

YOU
NEVER
TOLD
ME!

WOULD
YOU
BELIEVE
IT?



BASICALLY
ASKED FOR
MY SON'S
HAND.

SHOWJI'S
BOY-
FRIEND...



AT LEAST
LET ME
CLOSE THE
DOO—

HEY!
WAIT!

HURRY,
HURRY,
HURRY,
HURRY!

HOLD
ON.
QUIT
TUGGING!



CLATTER—
TMP R
TMP R
TMP R



KLATCH
ハ
チャ

HUH?!

ビ
ク
ツ

JUMP

HANAO!



WHA...

HUH?

COME
WITH ME.

NOW!



I CAN'T
BELIEVE I
RAN OUT
IN MY
SLIPPERS.















YOU CAN'T...

SLEEP WITH ME, THEN...

CAN...
YOU?



WHAT YOU VALUED...

I VALUED MORE THAN ANYBODY.

BUT...

TO PUT IT IN A WAY...

THAT'S EASY TO UNDERSTAND...



FOR...

EXAMPLE...



YOU WERE PREPARED TO SAY WHAT YOU DID, RIGHT?

I'M NOT GOING TO PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED.



HOW CAN YOU NOT KNOW?

SO WHEN DID IT START?

DON'T ASK ME.

I JUST DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T KNOW.



WANTED TO BECOME PART OF OUR FAMILY?

SO YOU MEAN YOU NEVER...



THAT'S NOT TRUE.





NO.



52
Y.O.



I...

I MIGHT
NOT BE
ABLE TO
GET IT
UP...

AT THIS
AGE!!



SO WHY
RISK IT
IF IT'S AN
UNCERTAINTY?

I'M NOT
SAYING
IT'S CERTAIN.

BUT IF WE
WERE TO
TRY AND
IT DIDN'T
WORK,
THAT'D
SUCK.



OH,
OR WE
COULD
SWITCH
ROLES...
UNLESS
YOU DON'T
LIKE THAT?

CONK
クッ

IF YOU
WANT TO
BE ON
TOP, I CAN
STEEL
MYSELF.

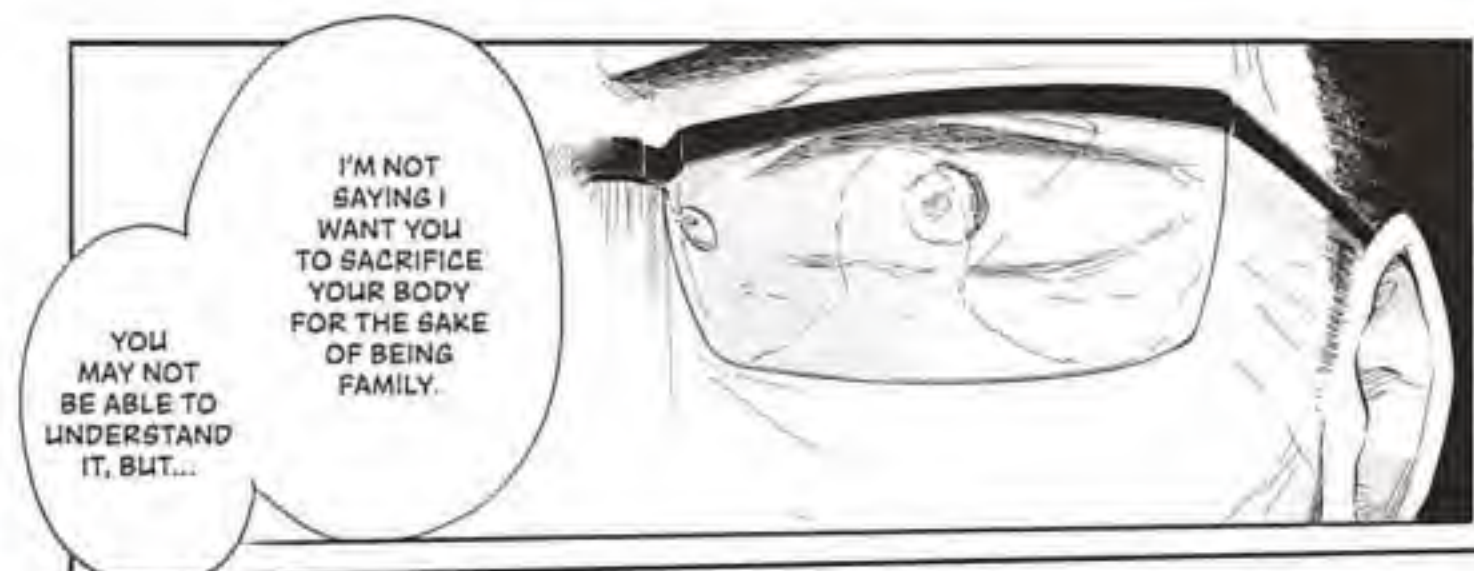


YOU'RE
USING
AGE AS AN
EXCUSE?

I'M NOT.

AREN'T
YOU A
LITTLE
YOUNG
TO HAVE
PROB-
LEMS?

EVERYONE'S
DIFFERENT.







THAT'S...

ERECTION?!

ERECTION?!

WHO WOULD EVER CONSIDER AN OLD MAN "CUTE" IF THEY'RE NOT IN LOVE WITH HIM?!

AND WHO GETS AN ERECTION OVER A LITTLE KISS?



YOU'RE SO STUBBORN!

JUST... LUST.

YOU'RE NOT EVEN MAKING SENSE ANYMORE.

YOU'RE ONLY TRYING TO WARP YOUR FAMILIAL LOVE TO FIT MY WANTS.



DON'T DISRESPECT ME!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, CALLING SOMEONE YOUR SENIOR "CUTE"?!

TWO YEARS BETWEEN MEN OUR AGE HARDLY COUNTS AS BEING MY SENIOR!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THINKING IT OVER...

DON'T WATCH THEM.

YES, DEAR.

THEY'RE FIGHTING!



WHAT MY LOVE OR LUST OR WHATEVER FOR YOU ACTUALLY IS!

AH!

ALL RIGHT ALREADY, HANAO.

I'M GOING TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO YOU...



WHAT'RE YOU...



WHAT'D YOU FALL DOWN FOR?!

I DIDN'T MEAN LITERALLY GIVE ME SPACE...

IT'S NOT THAT.



DON'T LOOK AT IT OR TOUCH IT! LET'S JUST LEAVE IT ALONE!!

YOUR THING.

WHY'S IT... LIKE THAT?

...HUH?

UH...

MITA, THAT'S...



YOU'RE THE ONE WHO...

I CAN'T HELP IT.



BE ABLE TO GET IT UP.

SO HOW CAN THIS BE...?

BUT YOU SAID YOU WEREN'T SURE...

IF YOU'D...



PITI-

CU-?!

AND THEN KISSED ME!

WHO SAID THAT CUTE THING WITH THAT PITIFUL FACE OF YOURS...











...

I'M HAPPY.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WHEN...

OUR HANDS BECOME JUST SKIN AND BONE.



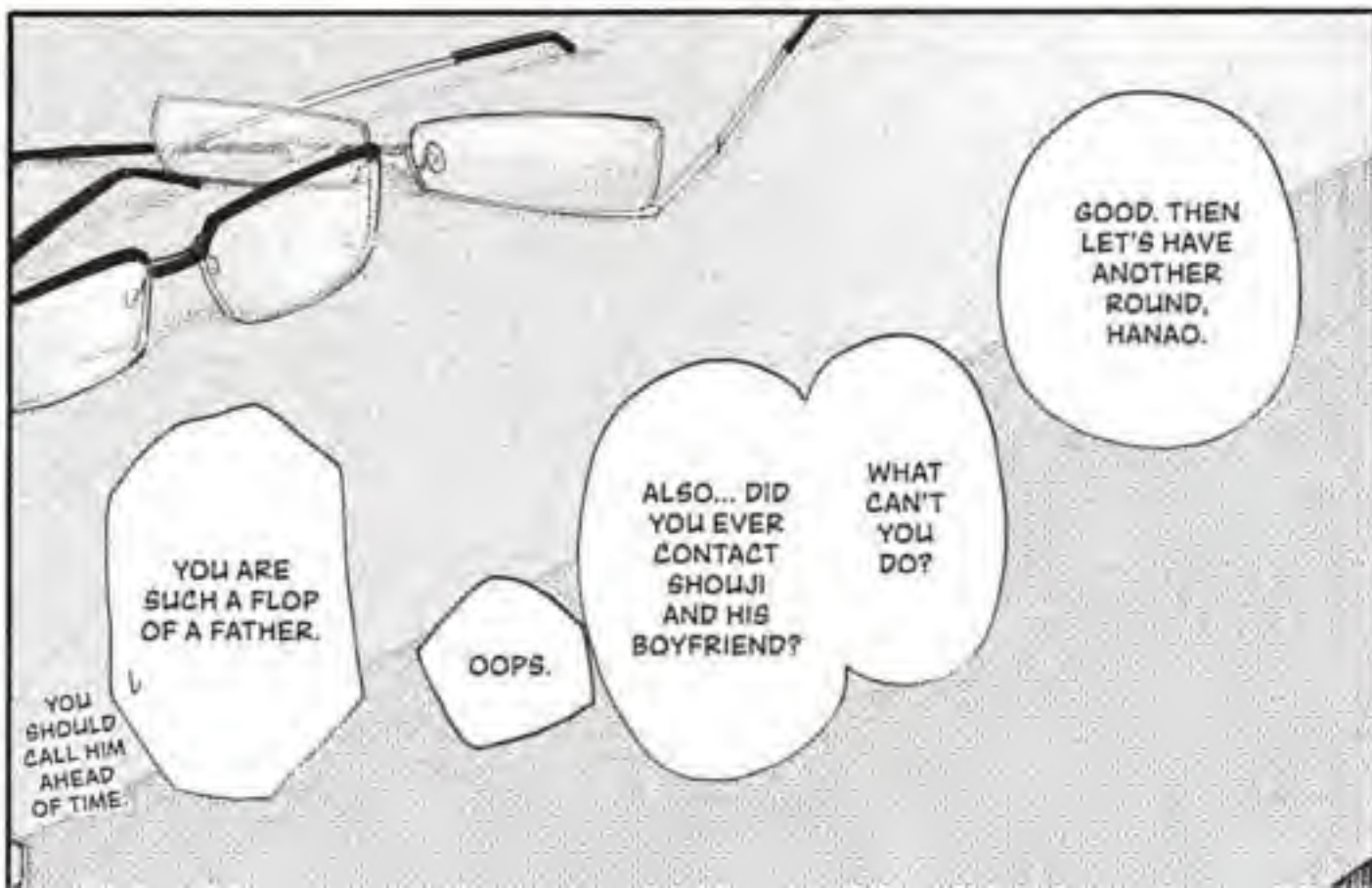
DON'T MAKE VERBAL PROMISES JUST BASED OFF A WHIM.

SAY THAT AFTER YOU'VE PUT SOME REAL THOUGHT INTO IT.

I AM PUTTING THOUGHT INTO IT.

YOU'RE NOT GIVING ME THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT.

WHAT DOES YOUR HEART SAY?



GOOD. THEN LET'S HAVE ANOTHER ROUND, HANAO.

YOU ARE SUCH A FLOP OF A FATHER.

OOPS.

ALSO... DID YOU EVER CONTACT SHOWJI AND HIS BOYFRIEND?

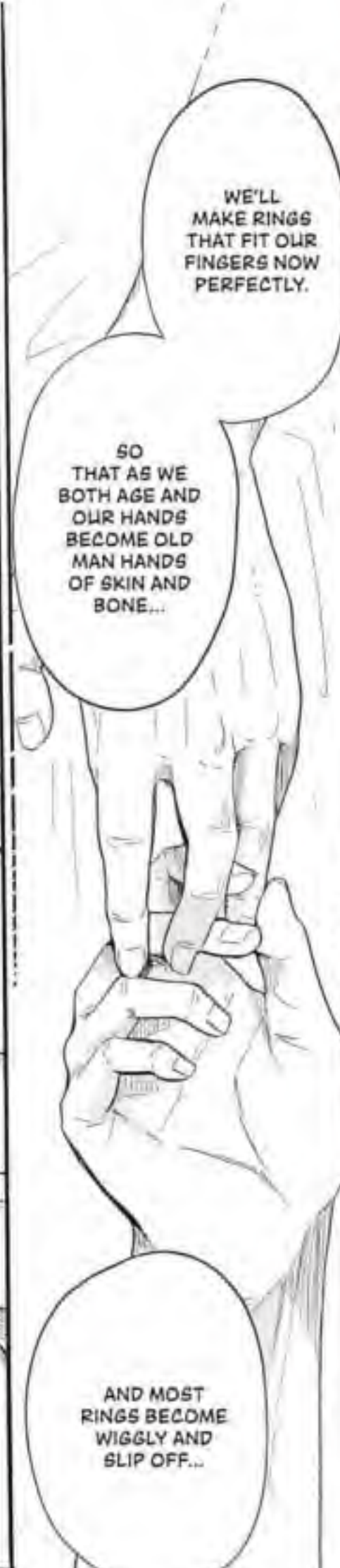
WHAT CAN'T YOU DO?

YOU SHOULD CALL HIM AHEAD OF TIME.



YOU CAN TRUST ME A LITTLE...

AND PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE.



WE'LL MAKE RINGS THAT FIT OUR FINGERS NOW PERFECTLY.

SO THAT AS WE BOTH AGE AND OUR HANDS BECOME OLD MAN HANDS OF SKIN AND BONE...

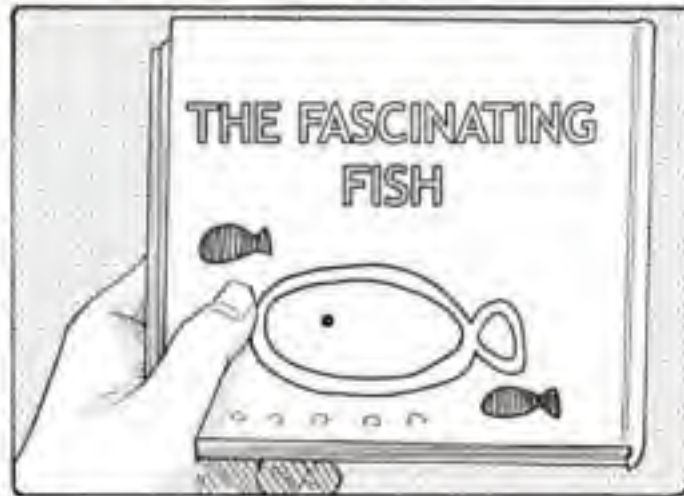
AND MOST RINGS BECOME WIGGLY AND SLIP OFF...



YOU STILL DON'T COMPLETELY BELIEVE ME, DO YOU?

SO...

Picking Out a Picture Book



Hanao's ring



Don't Call Me Daddy.

Don't Call Me Daddy.

Someone Who Sees Others' Efforts



What Should Be Said



MAKING RICE INVOLVES A LOT OF POUNDING OF THE RICE WITH A MALLET...